



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

OCT 4 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ARMY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: National Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Week

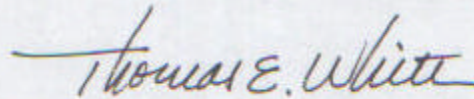
For most Army employees, October heralds the beginning of a new fiscal year. However, it is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and from October 6 through 14, 2001, National JWOD Week. Under the JWOD Program, Government Purchase Card users and acquisition personnel buy supplies and services furnished by nonprofit agencies employing people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. If you are a purchase cardholder or approving official, I ask you to check the [www.jwod.com](http://www.jwod.com) website prior to purchasing any item to find out if that item is available. It is extremely important that we purchase from JWOD so that we can help employ the severely disabled employees.

The theme of this year's National JWOD Week is "Working For America." I am especially proud of our agency's efforts to provide employment and training opportunities for people with severe disabilities through our support of the JWOD Program. Under JWOD, supplies and services purchased by the Army and other Federal agencies currently generate jobs for over 36,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. A new goal of creating 50,000 jobs under this Government-wide program has been set, and I ask all Army employees to help meet this goal.

In his New Freedom Initiative for people with disabilities, President Bush cites the 70 percent unemployment rate that exists in this population, and he pledges the Administration's commitment to increasing the ability of Americans with disabilities to integrate into the workforce. The major challenges to productive employment of qualified people with disabilities are attitudinal barriers and false assumptions about what people can and cannot do. What people with disabilities can do is be productive. Your efforts to utilize JWOD and inform your colleagues about this program will help ensure that the Army makes an important contribution to President Bush's goal of fulfilling America's promise to Americans with disabilities.



Please learn more about the important role you can play in this program at [www.jwod.gov](http://www.jwod.gov) and make a special effort to show your support during its celebration of National JWOD Week, October 6 through 14, 2001.



Thomas E. White

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